Volume XII Chicago, Ill., December, 1935 Number 9

# The Liberalist

## Christmas Still Lives

"Depressions, earthquakes, floods, and wars cannot destroy it;
The darkness of fear cannot blot out its light;
Hatred, envy, and jealousy cannot withstand it;
Greed and selfishness retreat before it.
Nothing can stop its onward march into the hearts of men
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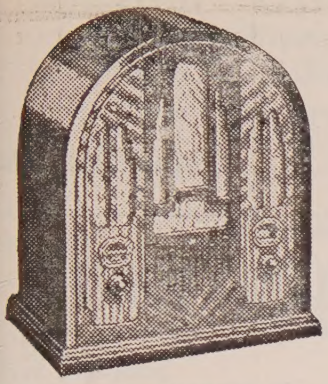

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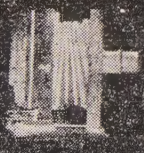

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Volume XII Chicago, Ill., December, 1935 Number 9

## *THE WORLD NEEDS CHRISTMAS*

By Grace Thayer Bradley

Time flies always, but never it seems to me with such swift flight as when calendar dates approach the 25th of December. No matter what the year has brought in change or suffering, somehow at Christmas time we throw back our shoulders and breathe deeply, and . . . sort of reach out . . . for that intangible un-named something that at Christmas makes us feel all is well . . . it's all right now . . . now . . . of course . . . it's Christmas!

The last month of the year,—and doesn't it seem the shortest month of all, with its attending activity happy planning, anticipation and preparation. If we but knew . . . if we but realized . . . how most important of all should be the preparation of our hearts to receive the Christmas Spirit, to open wide the doors for sacrifice, for thought of others, for Love . . . and Peace!

If the heart of the world would do this! If only the whole world would pause . . . pause for this period of Love . . . and put aside its greed and sin, it's sham and hate and wars, mastering old fears and envies and jealousies and worries, and have enthroned in every heart the spirit of the eternal Love once made flesh in the Babe of Bethlehem.

Oh! how the world needs Christmas! How every heart needs Christmas!

We always had a very large Christmas tree at my grandmother's house, and thinking of it now easily I recall the thrill—the excitement—the joy of that hour late in the afternoon of the day before Christmas. That time between daylight and dusk when shadows deepen in the corners and the house seemed to vibrate with expectancy, even the tall mahogany clock in the hall that had seen over- two hundred Christmas Eve's, seemed to tick peculiarly like it was trying to sing, and outside footsteps hurrying in the snow made a crunchy sound, —grandmother would say: "It is growing dark early dearie, I think it is time we got down the tree trimmings." Then she would go to a closet and lift down from the top shelf all those mysterious boxes that never lost their charm. Did grandmother know how patiently I had waited all that long afternoon and how every minute had dragged. Neither sleds or games or building snow men in the Park had any attraction. Hadn't I enquired gently quite a few times if she didn't think it was growing late? And now . . . the word was spoken . . .the moment at last had arrived—that moment of thrills unlike any other pleasure throughout the year, when I was to experience the excitement and joy of helping to open all those odd shaped boxes, and lift carefully out from their cotton and tissue paper wrappings the beloved Christmas tree trinkets not only dearly familiar to me, but they had been cherished by my mother and all my grandmother's children.

There was a wooden box of for-

eign make, which held silver icicles packed in sawdust, and they were very beautiful hanging from the green boughs, I have never seen any like them. And a queer large red box was full of glass fruit,—bunches of grapes, rosy cheeked pears and peaches, bright red cherries and currents, plums and oranges and golden nuts. Then there were balls of all sizes and colors—gold, silver, purple, blue, green, like bubbles reflecting the light, and strings of jewels to swing from bough to bough,—dainty silver trumpets, glistening pink hearts, many little glass lanterns, baubles of marvelously fantastic designs and shapes and two fascinating little boxes of ivory and gold and red velvet, these my childish imagination recognized as the "magic casket" of the Fairy Godmother, and "Aladdin's Lamp." Why of course,—hadn't I seen the very same things pictured in my story book? And these they remained through the years.

But most precious of all was the contents of a blue box covered with little silver stars, which was opened with great care and a feel-bordering upon awe. It was quite like awakening the Sleeping Beauty—for there in her bed of cotton from years end to years end slept the Christmas Fairy! Emerging from her long rest — there she was as beautiful as ever, golden winged and gown of gold,—flaxen curls and a sublime fairy expression on her waxen face. her little arms out-stretched, one hand holding a wand star tipped;—when poised amid the upper balsan boughs beneath and a little to the left of the large silver star that always scintillated from the very tip-top, she bestowed gifts and joy and blessings to all those clustered around that gorgeous tree,—or so it seemed to me, and when I was very very small I used to think she might fly away! Oh I loved that Christmas Fairy;—not till I was quite grown did I see that her gown was heavy gold paper, and once I mended her wings with wire, and pasted on some of her loosened flaxen curls. Still—still—I loved her, and she never last the art of weaving a spell on Christmas Eve!

How much we all need Christmas! We need to forget the fears and sorrows of the years—forget that we are grown-up, and allow ourselves to be children again. We need to catch the vision of shining star, of wise men following the gleam, and to hear the music of heavenly hosts, as we did in those childhood tales of myth and wonderment.

The world needs all the brilliant trimming it can get; red ribbons and holly and mistletoe—tall red candles shedding a soft glow; and lighted trees bedecked with strands of silver, and golden balls that shimmer and shine, and lovely Christmas Fairies!

Fortunate they who have open hearths with logs crackling cheerily a hearty welcome to family and clan and friends coming in with smiles and greetings, and a chimney trimmed with evergreen boughs, and a sprig of pearly berried mistletoe over the door. This bit of holiday decoration holds an interesting place in traditions handed down through many generations. The custom of "kissing and becoming friends" under a spray of mistletoe can be traced back through the centuries to the Druids—and beyond that even to the Greeks. These early people believed it to be a symbol of peace and friendship.

And oh! how sadly the world needs friendship and peace! Needs courage and cheer,—needs gifts and beauty and laughter,—needs radiant faces and smiles—and Love—and Good Will!

Yes . . . the world needs Christmas . . . and the benediction of old memories, and the joy of storeing up new ones!

Then indeed would there be "Peace on Earth — Good Will to Men!"

## *MEDITATION*

"Quietly and with deep reverence we again approach the source of that unending supply of inspiration and helpfulness which if it were ever to be denied us would bring complete and final disaster, and because sometimes we are fearful, aye, fearful that there may be some pollution of the sacred source waters of our inspiration is the reason with humility and with reverence we would ask for cleansing, we would ask for a new consecration, we would ask that there be nothing, nothing that could possibly interfere with the divine and beautiful radiance of that great Heart and Life.

So, today, upon every heart here and upon every heart listening, no matter what loyalties they may know and what varieties of religious thought and fidelity they may express, there is the one great common love, common loyalty that we would express this day. May the radiance and the beauty penetrate the fog and the mist and the dark clouds of the morning so that every heart or life in any hospital or any institution or anywhere at all that has any sense of defeat or any anxiety, may at the moment, feel the great sustenance and the great help.

So, with open mind and with cleansed heart, we approach the sacred tabernacle of Thy Perfection, and we would ask that in the approach some gentle ray of healing light may find its way to our hearts, and may the day be much more significant, and the week much more triumphant because we did not prevent that inspiration and that beauty by anything which we were or anything which we did.

We wait in Thy divine presence, knowing that heart and mind and life needs that excellency, for without it we perish. So fortified by this truth and with great reverence and love may every heart become adequately prepared for the divine presence, the divine friend."

## *"MASTERING WORRY"*

**Sermon by Dr. Preston Bradley, Pastor of Peoples Church of Chicago, November 3, 1935**

Dr. James Gordon Gilkey tells us in a recent book that on the third of March, 1843, there was a man by the name of Samuel F. B. Morse who was seated in the Senate Chamber during the closing days of the session of the United States Senate. He had just perfected what he thought would revolutionize the entire question of communication, an instrument which he called the 'telegraph' but he had come to the place where he found it necessary, in order to continue his experiments, that the actual experiments take over many miles of telegraph wire. He was a poor man, he had only one dollar in his pocket as he sat there that day in the Senate Chamber. Some friends of his had been able to introduce a Bill into the United States Senate which, if it passed, would mean an appropriation of $30,000, which would be given to Mr. Morse to continue the experiments. It was nearing the close of that session, nothing had been done with his Bill, when, as the hours neared adjournment, a friend of his came to him and said: 'Mr. Morse, I think you might as well go back to your hotel and perhaps leave Washington, for it seems an utterly hopeless thing to get this Bill through this session. I am afraid they will ad-

journ without it being passed.' Mr. Morse left the session of the Senate, went to his hotel, made arrangements in the morning to leave the city of Washington, and he tells us he retired, slept like a child without a single anxiety or worry. In the morning while he was at breakfast, a messenger sought him out and gave him the news that his appropriation for $30,000 was bunched with some other similar appropriations into one measure, and just before adjournment the appropriation was made by the United States Government, and he could continue his experiments. The gesture of the Government toward that measure unquestionably opened up the opportunity of the poor man without any resources at all to continue his experiment. That is not the point in opening my address with that story, my point is, and the point that I desire to be the center about which shall focalize all that I shall say upon the subject of worry and the means of mastery and overcoming is the fact that he was a man in the crisis of life, and life is not much more than a series of crises. Every hour and every day of life, of course, is just another crisis, and the crises of life that come and go are the moments in which we are to be in command of every faculty if we are to successfully meet the crisis.

People do not collapse in life with the ordinary arrangements of every day affairs; people are not defeated by the little common experiences of life and those minor experiences, but it is the inability of individuals to hold up and maintain themselves under unusual pressure and unusual crises that constitute the beginning of our collapse and our downfall. Consequently, any preparation which equips an individual to meet a crisis is necessarily a part of any technique of mastery.

It is necessary for us, if we are to meet these crises of life successfully, to understand what forces and what agencies in our lives are constantly battling against our being properly equipped to successfully meet the crisis when it comes. Here was a man with a crisis, he had spent thirty years of his life in the experiment of communication, he had one dollar in his pocket and the crisis was upon him, and yet the nature of the crisis, severe as it was, did not successfully interfere with either a good night's sleep or that quiet confidence which he had in the rectitude of his own achievement that a mere matter of $30,000, or $100,000, or $100,000,000, could not possibly interfere.

Now, I know of nothing quite so destructive to meet life's crises like that constantly nagging tendency to break down the fine clarity of thought vision that enables us to see things in their proper perspective, and people who constantly worry, do not possess that capacity, for constant anxiety inevitably lead to- constant confusion, and the more confused we become the more foggy our vision becomes the more unable we are to successfully master the emergencies of the situations of life.

Now my friends, I do not deny the validity of a legitimate, constructive, creative concern. There is an apprehension that we should successfully employ. I do not accept for one fraction of a second that theory of being so utterly abandoned in any idea of apprehension, of worry, that we are in clouds and singing songs all the time. That is ridiculous and it is absurd. Every individual here today, you are all justified in certain apprehensions and anxieties. The fact of the matter is that it is the proper co-ordination of these apprehensions and anticipated conditions that sometimes enable us to master the experiences of life. So I do not deprecate, neither do I condemn, certain types of apprehensions. I am concerned about my future and you and I ought to be. I am concerned about my old age, and we ought to be. I am concerned

about young people and we have right to be. I am concerned about the future of the country and it is a justified concern. There are these apprehensions, there are these anticipated conditions, but we cannot discuss worry without proper classifications.

Now, there is a type of individual, and I meet them often, that takes a particular delight, they just revel in an opportunity to worry, they never have a better time than when they are worrying about something, and they start in in the morning and worry from the time they wake up until they go to bed at night, and when they cannot find anything specific to worry about, why they worry because they can find nothing to worry about, and their inability to have any directive quality of their thought processes is an evidence of their own incapacity and lack of technique in the matter of worrying. Why, the world is full of people like that. They love to worry, and this is evidenced by a restlessness, biting their finger nails, not able to sit still, moving about, not quiet for even a small fraction of time, and these external evidences are the result of an inner turmoil. They are not diseases, they are symptoms, and their restlessness and inability to direct thought are not diseases, not at all, thy are symptoms of an inner deep disease which, if there is not proper regulation and soon controlled will lead to the beginning of that permanent disaster and disintegration, disunion, broken, distorted personality. That's the first evidence of deep, dark tragedy. Therefore, when I come in contact with an individual who is unable to distinguish between a justified and and unjustified worry, I recognize the beginning of the problem that needs to be solved.

What are you permitting, how are you going to avoid it, if you have a habit of worrying? If you get up in the morning and are constantly in chaos from anticipating all of the things that might happen, if you build a defense mechanism for yourselves through the technique of liberating anxiety, how are you going to face that problem and overcome it. If this thought this morning has any value whatever it is to those who are anxious to live life in terms of mastery, that's the problem that we must face.

It seems to me the first thing necessary is for you to cultivate persistently, it will not be easy and it will take weeks and possibly months for you to show any improvement at all, that is to cultivate as entirely as you can in every way a sense of direction of your own making. You say to me: 'Well, Doctor Bradley, can I control my thoughts?' I say to you, finally: 'Yes. There is no legitimate argument that any modern science of psychology will affirm that thought control is not possible.' It is, but it is not possible without a long period of disciplining, and it is the disciplining that people don't like, because people want miracle men. I imagine there are people in this splendid congregation this morning that came because you thought I had a magic wand and that by the medium of that magic wand you could stop worrying, that you could go out and say: 'Look, Dr. Bradley told me how not to have to worry any more and it is all over.' I wish it was as simple as that. I wish I could say to any worried and disillusioned mind here today that it is just that easy. I wish I could hand you a magic wand. I cannot, but I wish I could. The best I can do is to just simply intimate to you that you have got to do some of this work yourselves, and that's what a lot of people don't like. They want to go and pay some psychologist to tell them in four or five lectures how to become a success, go and hear a preacher, that they can hear for nothing, who can tell them how to be a success and cultivate a great mastery of life. The only way it can ever be solved is by good hard struggle and

disciplining work on yourself. Your own ability and your own sensitiveness of the problem to get it out where you can look at it face to face and say to yourself: 'I am going to begin this day by directing my own thought processes, and the things that I determine are of importance for consideration are going to be given that consideration, and those not important not permitted to be a part of my life this day!' How many of you ruin every day of your life by details and insignificant matters that come into your life and last all day? How many will spoil a whole day by an insignificant thing that never ought to have a part in your life? How many people are temperamentally disturbed even by the weather, when anybody who has a sense of mastery never gives any concern to the weather at all. One of the first evidences that perhaps I have gotten along on the way in trying to develop a sense of mastery over life is to refuse to pay any attention or give any consideration to the weather. To me, it does not exist, simply does not, and yet there are hundreds of people tyrannized by weather. They look out of the windows and say: 'Oh, it is raining!' 'It is snowing!' 'The sun is shining!' and their whole day is colored by an inconsequential thing that they cannot help or prevent.

What is the first evidence of a mind in control? Why, the very climax of achievement for any mind is that superb position to which it can achieve and arrive, namely: that nothing, nothing that I cannot control or change is going to interfere with my life or with my mental element. I am not concerned with things I cannot help. I am not going to be dominated by conditions which I cannot prevent. I am not going to be confused or disturbed by anything, by anybody, with conditions or circumstances that I have nothing to do with. Now, what do you think of that? Just analyze your own lives for a moment on that basis. How much anxiety and worry enter your hearts and minds over conditions that you cannot help? Well, what's the use of worrying about them? The world is too full of things that we can help, and my life is too crowded with conditions that I can change for me to interfere with my mental energy and my spiritual power by having them depleted by people and things that I cannot help.

I used to worry about what people did to me. I used to worry about what people said. I don't any more. I just simply came to the conclusion that there is nothing that you can do about 99% of the people and therefore you should give to the 1% because possibly you can do something for them, and let the rest go it! What are you going to do anyhow, that is the question? We can choose our friends, our relatives are presented to us out of the cosmos, and that we cannot do anything about, so why permit them to disturb you? Why get excited about them, why worry about that, why be concerned? Can't you see in this little bit of pleasantry that I am bringing the truth in relief to your consciousness? Don't you think, when you begin to look at this whole problem and concept for a moment, that we are anxious and concerned about unjustified matters and unjustified affairs? We weaken the necessary energy that we need to face the things that are justified, and there are many people in this world that go down to defeat and failure because they broke their energies on inconsequential things and the things that did not matter.

If I am to be worried and defeated by life, and life is going to break me, and if life is going to destroy me, I am going to be concerned about one thing, that in the destruction and in the chaos, I shall utilize against that moment the energy and the power that I have tried to build for just such a moment, and if I am finally defeated, it will be a defeat of victory! I know there are people

n this audience today, I know here are people listening that in he big solution of life and its roblems are going to enter into he fray handicapped with a handicap that is the result of vasting energy and wasting men- al capacities and wasting physi- al health, wasting everything, so hat when the big hour and the great moment do arrive you have nothing to fight with. Therefore, f you are worried about the non- ssential, get rid of it! That ounds easy, how are you going o do it? It sounds easy but I lso know that it is difficult, for have just as much tendency to e anxious about the unimport- nt as anyone here or hearing me. am saying it only on the valid- ty of my own experience, I am ot getting it out of text books on sychiatry or psychology, I am alking out of the basic, funda- nental experience of my own life. say it to you because I want ou to have that sense of mastery. f you are here this morning and re dominated by the non-essen- ial and confused by the unim- ortant, I know how difficult it will be for you. I know how con- tantly the warfare must be en- aged in. There was a time when ve of religion could accept as a rinciple and philosophy that when people were in that condi- ion it would be possible to go to ome external agency of source nd power and by some miracle elations all that anxiety could be elieved. Now we are beginning o see that the really important act is that when we are properly ttuned and adjusted to the ultim- te power which is universal for ur availability, it is there, it is ot that our problem becomes ess, as most people want them to e, most of us are constantly say- ng: 'O, my problem is so hard, y particular problem is so dif- cult, I am worried so deeply, orried about my own particular roblem. It seems to be more dif- cult and hard than almost any- ody else! What is the truth a- out it? Proper relationship, roper contact with the supreme source of all power, all truth, all beauty, all goodness. When that is established your problem does not become less, not at all, it may be just as severe, your money problem may be just as acute, the anxiety of the home may be just as acute, your problem is just as acute. What does happen? My problem does not become less, nor does it become unreal. I will tell you what happens. You become stronger! Your problem does not become less, but you become stronger, and consequently the problem that was disturbing your life and making it so difficult for you, you now face with a strength that you did not know existed. That's the thing that I want you worrying folks to understand, that just as every experience in a crisis reveals a capacity or a potentiality that we never knew we possessed, so people don't know how strong they are because their real strength has never been called forth. Some of us think our problems floor us and drive us to our despair when the fact of the matter is those very problems reveal a potential strength that we did not know that we even possessed. That's exactly what happens. You think you have come to the climax and conditions cannot go on any further, yet you know that that is not true.

We have a humorist and I am going to read something here for a minute, and the reason I am doing this is because I think it is splendid. He worried—no one ever associates worry with a humorist, but they are all pathetic, the most pathetic people, personally and privately, you ever saw —this humorist had a great deal of worry and finally he made for himself a Worry Table and I am going to read it to you and show you just how easily you can make one of your own.

The first is this: He found, he said, as he analyzed it, 40% of his worries were about disasters which, as later events proved, never happened at all. Now, how many of you have got that one in your worries? I know that I have.

I am always having my folks in a wreck that really never happens. You see, I am taking my own medicine. So 40% of your worries are things that never happen, 40%. I believe that. I believe it absolutely. Just think, that is nearly one-half, 40% is nearly 50% of our worries about things that never happen, NEVER HAPPEN! My word, doesn't it seem that we ought to get about the business, if we are going to worry, to worry about something that really takes place? There might be some sense to that. So 40% of our worries are about things that never happen.

Now, since I have been talking today, I have been looking over this congregation and I have been watching people, I have been using you for a clinic, you are in my laboratory and I see one or two persons—I am not looking at them now, so don't you look around—they are just as tense, they are here like this (demonstrating tenseness) (Laughter), sitting there like that. I know what they are doing, they are being dominated by unimportant details that is disturbing their minds, they are worrying, and we may go off the air at 12:30 but I shall stay here until 2:30, if need be, until I get two or three individuals that I am looking at, out of it. They are doing pretty well and we may not have to stay as long as I thought (Laughter). You see what I mean? Why don't you take possession of your brain and say: 'I am the master of this thing.' Stop worrying about something you cannot help. Begin to see that life is something deeper and finer, that even a rainy morning is beautiful, it is not raining rain to me, it never does rain rain, snap out of it!

Well, then, he finds that 30% of his anxieties are about decisions which he made in the past and decisions about which he cannot do anything now. How many people are there in the world that are just constantly saturated with the tyranny of something they decided yesterday that they cannot help today. What are you going to do about it? You go about worrying and in a tremulous voice you say: 'If, if, if, if!' What are you going to do about an 'if' you 'iffers'? There is nothing you can do about it! There is nothing you can do about it! Every little while I meet someone that says to me: 'O, if I had only sold out when United States Steel was 271!' 'If I had only sold my Public Utilities!' If, IF, IF, if he had not done that, if he had not said this, if he had not gone there, if, if. Sometimes I think that that little bit of a two-letter word is the biggest little devil in all our vocabulary—IF. How can I help it because I made a decision yesterday that was wrong today? Am I going to let it floor me, am I going to tyrannize the present by what might have happened yesterday? Likewise 30% of your anxieties can be classified in this manner.

There we have 70% already of our actual worries which we can discard. Now I am going to 12%, worries about possible sickness, or a possible nervous breakdown, neither of which materialize. I know that that is true. I have known people in this church that have been having a breakdown for the last twenty years and they are enjoying the breakdown, and they love to talk about it and discuss it. Of course, health should have some concern. Every person, of course, should pay attention to the scientific laws of life, eating, living and all the rest so necessary for complete and perfect physical unity. Of course, we should. A man would be a fool to suggest otherwise. Of course we must think of nervous and emotional exhaustion that leaves us broken in health, but what is the problem of health? Worrying about it if we have lost it? Worrying about it if we think we are going to lose it? Start in right now, this very second of time, to obey the laws, both of body and mind, that will bring back health! That will stop your worry about health. The trouble

is that lots of people violate all the physical laws for thirty or forty years and then suddenly wake up with something gone wrong. They go to a doctor and want him to prescribe a bottle of medicine or a box of pills that will cure it up in a few days. You can go on violating the laws of life and hygiene and suddenly wake up some day with hardened arteries or some other ailment and you start worrying about it. You should have started to worry about it 35 years ago when you refused to build health. So when that hour comes and you find health is slipping and the body tires and you feel that your health is going, reorganize your lives at once, change any habit that you have — the chances are everything you are doing is wrong. If you are worried about a nervous condition, a condition of your mind, consult a psychologist and let him read every chapter of your life. If you are worried about your health, consult the best psychiatrist, and then go to work, GO TO WORK, for it will be work. Health is never a present to anybody. Health is the normal, the natural and the beautiful thing and only the unnatural and the ugly can ruin it, and when it is ruined and destroyed it is because we have lost the way, so we had better get back to the way, for you cannot eat your cake and have it, and most people want to do just that thing.

So we have got rid of 82% of your worries. Now to come to 10% of his anxiety, he worried about his children and friends arising from the fact that he forgot that these people have an ordinary amount of common sense. I think that is rather good. I have known fathers and mothers to worry about their children until, actually after they were through with the worry I was convinced that the child was an imbecile, that the child did not have a particle of brain sense or moral fortitude. Have any of you forgotten that you today,—let's say you are 50, all right—forty years ago you were the little lad that your father and mother were worrying about and you turned out all right, and a good deal of this worry and anxiety born of the concern for others we can discard and apply to bigger problems.

Now I want to close with the last 8%. We have dismissed 92% of your worries you can discard and now we come to the 8%. What are they, the worries that are real, the worries that are justified, what are they? The concern and the worry that I have in my heart and soul, and which ought to be there and ought to stay there, is that I must be physically mentally and spiritualy a unified human being if I am to master life. I have got to be concerned about that, that's got to be in my heart and mind all the time. That's a worry I have got to give some consideration to. I have got to be concerned about it, I have got to think every day: 'Doctor Bradley, how about your mind? Are you playing with the stench and filth of life, or are you keeping those precious brain cells to function with the beautiful?' I have got to be concerned about that and I have got to say to myself: 'What about your body? That must be the temple of the spirit. That's the only medium through which personality can be externally expressed.' That is the 'you' to the world and to society, that body. I must have a justified concern about that, it is important, very important, and I must remember that I cannot abuse it and I cannot crush it and I cannot waste it without penalty, I must be concerned about that, and that this body, soul and mind can live and grow into the mastery of life, then comes joy and singing and happiness, for I know that then I can go into the subterranean areas of life and demand the energy that I have been building there, and when disaster and disease and trouble and disillusionment and accident and tragedy sweep over my life, I stand in their presence with every fiber of my being, every cell of

my brain, every heart-beat, and say to them: 'Back! Back! you devouring dogs and beasts! Who are you? WHO ARE YOU, that you think you are strong enough or powerful enough to ruin the serene and robust confidence of my life?' That's mastery, and how can you say that? No man can say it without a great faith. No man can say it without a great contact. No man can say it without a feeling that he belongs and is a part of the eternal verities of all ages. **YOU ARE UNIVERSAL! YOU ARE YOU!** Every being, every personality in this congregation this morning is an identity. You have personality, you have brains, you have a heart, you have a body, and life has no right to crush or snare you or wreck you, it is you who are in control. It is you who are master. Then you will be able to say with that quiet poise and that great dignity: 'I have fought, fought ghosts, devouring ghosts, animals of greed, life's conquering hordes, I have wrestled with you, I have fought with you, and to me is the victory!'

Burn this sentence, burn it in your hearts I close with it, it is my last sentence, it will remake your life: **TAKE HOLD OF THE TASK, BANISH THE WORRY, FIGHT AGAIN THE BATTLE FOR HEALTH, IF YOU HAVE FAILED, AND SOON THIS FIGHT WILL BECOME VICTORY! DON'T LET ANY PAST OR OLD SIN HURT YOU OR PREVENT YOUR RECOVERY! DON'T BE TYRANNIZED BY THE SINS OF THE PAST, DON'T LET THEM BE A PERMANENT OBSTACLE TO THE RECOVERY OF THE SOUL! DON'T THINK WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN, THINK WHAT YOU ARE BECOMING!** That's the only important thing, and don't let anything back there stop you from the glory of the vision of today!

**LIFE IS YOUR RIGHT, YOU HAVS BEEN BORN AND YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO SAY TO LIFE: 'I WANT HEALTH, I WANT FRIENDS, I WANT A SENSE OF MASTERY!'** That's your right! All you have to do is to claim that right and go to work and make it yours.

**'LIFE, LIFE, LIFE WAS MADE FOR VICTORY!'**

## THE BAZAAR AND THE WOMAN'S CLUB

In spite of wars, and earthquakes and depression and the high price of bacon and potatoes and the Townsend Plan—in spite of everything the Annual Bazaar was a splendid success from the minute it opened at ten o'clock on Thursday morning, November 21st, till it closed at a late hour on Friday night. The booths were trimmed in the individual taste of the chairman presiding over it, and presented a gay and colorful appearance, each in different colors, instead of uniform shades as heretofore. It was rather a nice idea. every one was in gala spirits, and there was a splendid crowd coming and going at all times. The booths were filled with beautiful, useful and interesting things. We are deeply grateful to our radio friends for their kind and generous donations. Dr. and Mrs. Bradley, the trustees of the church and the Woman's Club very greatly appreciate all that everyone did to assist in making the Bazaar such a glorious success. The luncheons and dinners both days were attended in larger numbers than ever before. The "movies" taken by Dr. Bradley during his travels, as well as Mrs. Bradleys garden, and Dr. Bradley fishing, and their police dog, etc., etc.—attracted a great many to the "show" on the stage back of the curtain, where a little theatre was arranged.

There was such a fine spirit of good will and fellowship throughout, and everyone seemed to buy and buy to the last penny! There were very very few articles left at closing time, that can easily be desposed of later on. And so another Bazaar will go down in history,—and we can now turn our

attention and energy to something else.

The Donation Tea was held in Channing Hall, November 18th. Mrs. Bradley could not be present to act as hostess, and Mrs. Pape and Mrs. Hermsdorf took her place in receiving the many guests who came bringing donations for the bazaar. The program was given by the talented pupils of the Vera Eshelman School of Dancing, a group of charming children who delighted the audience. Mrs. Denicke had charge of the tea table which was all in white even to the lighted candles. The booths built around the hall were in readiness to receive the donated articles, each presided over by a chairman and assistants.

We are glad to state Mrs. Bradleys condition improved so that she was able to attend the bazaar part of each day, held later in the week.

On November 11th, Dr. Bradley gave a lecture on Mark Twain at a large meeting of the club at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. November 25th, Mrs. Wm. T. Bell, chairman Department of International Relations presented Dr. Yard in a most interesting address on International questions. This closed the November calendar which has been rich with many fine things.

## DR. BRADLEYS NEW BOOK "MASTERING FEAR"

Our realers, members and radio friends will be glad to know that our pastor's new book "Mastering Fear" is in the Best Seller list. The publishers have put out a Christmas edition coupled with his first book "Courage for Today" with an antographed picture of Dr. Bradley, all wrapped together in cellophane. This makes a nice Christmas gift. The double package for $3.00, or either may be puchased for $1.50 a piece, autographed by Dr. Bradley. Any of the Chicago book or department stores will be glad to take your order by mail, or buy direct from the publishers, Bobbs Merrill and Company, Indianapolis, Indiana. Every discouraged, disheartened person will be helped by reading these books.

In a review of "Mastering Fear" in The New York Times of November 3rd, the reviewer finished with these words "If every person in the world could read this book and would put his council into action the world would surely breathe more freely and hopefully to-morrow."

**"The Liberalist" for Christmas!**

Why not send our monthly magazine "The Liberalist" to friends or relatives for Christmas. If you will send $1.00 with the address to whom you want the magazine sent, to The Peoples Church, Chicago, our secretary will send a Christmas card carrying your name with the first number. It is published 12 months, with a sermon of Dr. Bradleys in each number, and many articles of interest for $1.00!

## ANNUAL CHURCH BANQUET

The date fo the Annual Church Banquet at The Edgewater Beach Hotel will be January 30th.

## A CHRISTMAS WISH!

We wish most of all in this Yuletide season that we could know intimately every friend, member, radio listener of The Peoples Church of Chicago and every reader of our church magazine. No one can ever have too many friends and your friendship has been demonstrated so many years that our hearts are overflowing with gratitude and appreciation. We wish we might be able to express the whole range of our joy for the opportunity which we have of trying to be a help and inspiration to all who grant us the privilege. We are passing through an interesting epoch in the life of mankind. It is a glorious thing to be alive in just such an age, we wouldn't have missed it for anything! As

the Christmas season comes on we are able through its beautiful significance to more clearly see life in terms of true proportion and emphasis. We are able to more clearly distinguish values and identify emphasis. The lovely old fashioned virtues of life are vividly brought to our attention again above the tumult and confusion of the transitory. Love, kindness, peace, tolerance, understanding, sympathy and beauty are given precedence at Christmas. How could we go on without Christmas and everything it stands for? Christmas is a verification that love still reigns and that peace is not a fantastical dream. All the rest of the year may conspire with its glamour, selfishness and greed to permanently destroy the Christmas reality but it never succeeds. So with renewed energy, re-dedicated devotion, re-consecrated lives we express gratitude for the past, the present and face the future with love, hope and courage."

—Preston and Grace Bradley.

## THE YOUNG PEOPLES CLUB

The Young Peoples Club of the church meets the first and third Monday evenings of each month in Bradley Hall in the Peoples Church Building. All young people of the church and radio congregation are cordially invited to attend. A very interesting program of activities is presented at each meeting. On Monday evening, December 9th, Dr. Bradley addressed the meeting on "The Challenge which the Age Presents to Modern Youth." Bradley Hall was filled and the question period following the lecture evidenced the great interest of the meeting. The Young Peoples Club will gladly welcome all young people. Representatives of the club are in the lobby of the church at each service and will be glad to give out information.

—Kenneth Ball, President.

## THE LIBERALIST

The magazine which you are now reading is the church magazine of the Peoples Church of Chicago. Twelve copies are published during the year and are mailed to any address anywhere in the world for one dollar per year. Each issue contains a complete sermon by Preston Bradley as delivered from the pulpit of the church and also a stenographic report of the morning Meditation. If you will write the church secretary, Mrs. May H. Harrison, Peoples Church,, 941 Lawrence Avenue, Chicago and enclose a dollar we will send the magazine twelve times during the year to any person you designate. Why not send subscriptions to your friends for Christmas? We will send them a Christmas Card stating that you are sending them the magazine for a gift. May we hear from you?

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have been received in to the church since the beginning of the fall season:

Mrs. L. W. Harrison, 607 Genesee Street, Morrison, Illinois, (from Methodist Church of Morrison.)

Mr. Donald X. Harrison, 607 Genesee Street, Morrison, Illinois, (from Methodist Church of Morrison.)

Miss Mary Elizabeth Harrison 607 Genessee Street, Morrison, Illinois, (from Methodist Church of Morrison.)

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Katterjohn, 846 Ainslie Street, from (Epworth Methodist Church.)

Mrs. Eloise T. Mason, 6937 Stewart Avenue

Mrs. S. B. Brown, 1138 Winona Street

Mrs. Edgar Henning, 4815 Winthrop Avenue.

Miss Grace D. Hall, 5510 Sheridan Road, (from Edgewater Presbyterian Church.)

Mr. Fred Keller, 2236 Lewis Street

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Milz, 2236 Lewis Street

Mr. Chas. H. Penikoff, 40 E. Oak Street

Miss Esther Penikoff, 40 E. Oak Street

Miss Lorraine B. Zwengel, 5825 N. Kimball Ave.

Miss Liesel Winkler, 823 Montrose Avenue from German Lutheran Church, Altoon, Pa.

## PASTOR'S CALENDAR

Preston Bradley kept the following engagements during the month of November:

1—Address Chicago Icelandic Society
3—Two Sermons, Peoples Church
4—Address, P.-T. A. Whitefish Bay, Wis.
5—Radio Address, WBBM
6—Book Lecture, Peoples Church
7—Address, Woman's Club, Rochelle, Illinois
8—Address John W. Cook P.-T. A.
9—Address, Marshall Field Store Book Section
10—Two Sermons, Peoples Church
11—Address, Woman's Club, Peoples Church
11—Meeting Chicago Public Library Board
11—Meeting Trustees, Peoples Church
12—Address, Congregation Rodfei Zedek
13—Book Lecture, Peoples Church
14—Address, Teacher's Institute, Marion, Indiana
15—Address, Ebinger School P.-T. A.
16—Meeting I. W. L. A. Executive Committee
17—Two Sermons, Peoples Church
18—Address, Memorial Hall, Racine, Wis.
19—Address, Wausau, Wis.
20—Book Lecture, Peoples Church
21—Address, Conservation Council, Cook County
21—Address, Divinity Students, University of Chicago
21—Annual Bazaar, Peoples Church
22—Annual Bazaar
24—Two Sermons, Peoples Church
25—Address, Chicago Lawn M. E. Church
26—Radio Address, WBBM
27—Book lecture, Peoples Church
28—Thanksgiving Day Sermon, Peoples Church
29—Address, Rockford, Illinois

## FUNERALS

2—Mrs. May Clark, Interment, Acacia Park
4—Mrs. Herline Kruse, Interment, Graceland
5—George N. Getschow, Interment, Rosehill
16—John Ayers Brown, Interment, Graceland
16—Steven Radossenvich, Interment, Irving Park
20—John L. Timerman, Interment, Rosehill
23—Mrs. John N. Lawson, Interment, Graceland

## WEDDINGS

2—Henry J. Newell and Esther M. Cornell
2—Paul L. Kreker and Olive L. DeMay
2—Walter L. Clark and Dorothy M. Dunning
3—Bert A. Lundgren and Wynne C. DeGraff
3—Robert T. Stanton and Leonilda B. Merrill
9—Karsten Schroeder and Dorothea Prater
9—Herbert Deeming and Florence Sutherland
9—John Edgar Brayman and Myrle Marie Wenham
16—William H. Kuhlman and Frances U. Lance
16—Edwin C. Kossack and Ethel Franzen
16—William C. Paquette and Madelaine Palabykian
20—John W. Upp and Evelyn C. Murphey

20—Robert A. Walsh and Edna M. Harrison
20—Harold L. Peters and Edyth Jason
23—Fred Klickman and Ocie Fern Griffith
27—Carl A. Christopherson and Doris G. Baker
27—S. Wesley Palmer and Cina Candle
28—William G. Cook and Roma C. Stauch
28—Martin G. Davison and Hazel T. Belyea
28—Harold Seeber and Catherine Oeller
30—Lloyd V. Ericson and Frances Edmondson
30—Clifton L. Nourse and Margaret P. Dissette

## CHRISTMAS CHURCH PROGRAM

December 12th—Chorus Choir Presents "The Messiah."

December 20th—Annual Christmas Party, Church School

December 25th—Annual Christmas Service, 10:45 a. m. This service will be Broadcast by WJJD

December 22nd—Annual Candlelight Service and Christmas play (Uptown Players) 7:30 p. m.

December 23rd—Annual Candelight Service and Christmas Play, 8:00 p. m.

**December Sermon Subjects (Morning) General Theme "Triumphant Living"**

1st—"How to Work Under Difficulties"

8th—"How to Make Adjustments"

15th—"How to Manage Little Annoyances"

22nd—"How to Develop One's Self Control"

29th—"How to Get a Second Chance" (New Year.)

All morning services broadcast by WJJD.

**Wednesday Evening Book Lectures—8:00 P. M.**

January 8th—"Mrs. Astor's Horse," Stanley Walker

January 15th—"The Freedom of the Press," George Seldes

January 22nd—"The Wollcott Reader," Alexander Wollcott

January 29th—"Seven Pillar's of Wisdom," T. E. Lawrence.

## DO YOU WANT TO BE SURE OF A SEAT?

During the church year many friends and members take advantage of the opportunity to have a seat reserved until the beginning of the Choir Processional by selecting a seat from the plat in the church office or writing for a reservation to the secretary, Mrs. Harrison, at the church, 941 Lawrence Avenue. For ten dollars, payable when and as you are able during the church year, such seat will be reserved. Spread out over the period of the church year ten dollars is easily paid by everyone. Just call or write for your reservation and you will always be assured of a seat at the morning services. Reservations are now being made. Remember you pay the ten dollars at your convenience.

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Published monthly by The Peoples Church.
Preston Bradley ..... Editor
Grace Thayer Bradley .....
..... Associate Editor
Mrs. Thos. A. Harrison .....
..... Subscription Mgr.
941 Lawrence Ave. Longbeach 6878

The North Shore News Pub. Co., 7028 N. Clark St., Rogers Park 0220.

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